

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061609

LIMDIS TOSEC 760

FOLL REPEAT ANKARA 2239 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ATHENS

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QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2239

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT PLS PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH AID

1. I AM SERIOUSLY CONCERNED BY THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE'S DECISION TO DEFER ACTION ON THE SCOTT-MANSFIELD BILL TO REVERSE THE CURRENT CUTOFF OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. BASED ON LONG EXPERIENCE AS A CONGRESSIONAL VOICE COUNTER, I LEFT WASHINGTON TEN DAYS AGO CONVINCED THAT WHILE ZEAL WAS LACKING, THE VOTES WITHIN THE SFRC WERE DEFINITELY THERE TO REPORT THIS LEGISLATION AFFIRMATIVELY TO THE SENATE FLOOR. (I FELT THE DECISION ON THE SENATE FLOOR WAS MUCH LESS CERTAIN AND THAT THE PROSPECTS IN THE HOUSE FOR THE PRESENT WERE DEFINITELY NEGATIVE.)

2. I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT MY ASSESSMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE
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SFRC WAS AN ACCURATE ONE TEN DAYS AGO. IF THE COMMITTEE'S

FAILURE TO ACT THIS WEEK RESULTS FROM AN ABSENCE OF THE NECESSARY AFFIRMATIVE VOTES, THIS MEANS THAT FOR ONE OR A COMBINATION OF REASONS THERE HAS BEEN A SERIOUS REVERSAL OF SENTIMENT WITHIN THE COMMITTEE--BECAUSE THE AFFIRMATIVE MARGIN TEN DAYS AGO WAS VERY DEFINITELY A COMFORTABLE ONE.

3. FORTUNATELY, THE SENATE COMMITTEE'S ACTION IS BEING PUBLICIZED HERE AT A TIME WHEN THE COUNTRY IS PREOCCUPIED WITH ITS LATEST, AND AT THE MOMENT SOMEWHAT PROMISING, EFFORT TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. WE ARE ALSO THE "BENEFICIARY" OF THE CURRENT PRESENCE IN OFFICE OF AN EXTREMELY WEAK GOVERNMENT WHICH IS RELUCTANT TO TAKE DECISIVE STEPS IN ANY DIRECTION. TURKISH ANGER OVER THE ORIGINAL CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, HOWEVER, WILL NOT BE DENIED INDEFINITELY, AND WHILE THE CURRENT WEAK GOVERNMENTAL PICTURE AND PREOCCUPATION WITH MANEUVERS REGARDING A NEW GOVERNMENT--COMBINED WITH THE SECRETARY'S VISIT--GIVES US SOME MORE TIME, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT GOT RESTRAINT UP TO THIS POINT NOT LULL US INTO UNDERESTIMATING THE RETALIATIONS THAT AWAIT US IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE.

4. TO HEAD OFF THESE RETALIATIONS, WE DO NOT NEED TO HAVE SCOTT-MANSFIELD LEGISLATION ENACTED AT ONCE BY BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS. WHAT WE DO NEED FAIRLY SOON, HOWEVER, IS THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF CONCRETE STEPS IN THIS LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. THE SFRC'S VOTING THE LEGISLATION FAVORABLY TO THE FLOOR WILL BUY US SOME TIME. THE SENATE'S PASSING SUCH LEGISLATION WILL OBVIOUSLY HELP THE SITUATION HERE CONSIDERABLY. I MUST EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO OUR INTERESTS HERE TO ALLOW TOO MUCH MORE TIME TO RUN BEFORE THIS PROCESS OF CONCRETE STEPS GETS UNDERWAY.

5. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THERE ARE TWO VERY INFLUENTIAL TURKISH PARLIAMENTARIANS (KAMRAN INAN AND ENGIN UNSAL) IN WASHINGTON ATTENDING NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS. I AM MUCH CONCERNED THAT THESE IMPORTANT POLITICAL FIGURES WILL COME AWAY WITH AN INACCURATE AND OVERLY PESSIMISTIC PICTURE OF THE PROSPECTS FOR THE SCOTT-MANSFIELD LEGISLATION, AND I STRONGLY URGE THAT A SPECIFIC EFFORT BE MADE WITH THEM TO AVOID THEIR REACHING SUCH CONCLUSIONS. IF UPON THEIR RETURN THEY REFLECT AN UNDULY PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF THE SCOTT-MANSFIELD
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LEGISLATION'S PROSPECTS, THIS COULD BADLY UNDERCUT THOSE IN TURKISH CIRCLES HERE WHO ARE SEEKING TO DELAY TURKISH RETALIATORY ACTION. BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE I ATTACH TO THIS SPECIFIC AND IMMEDIATE PROBLEM, I WOULD HOPE THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN COULD PERSONALLY BE IN TOUCH WITH INAN AND UNSAL.

6. FINALLY, SENATOR INAN HAS CALLED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE

FORMIN HERE A LETTER HE HAS RECEIVED FROM SENATOR SPARKMAN IN WHICH THE LATTER POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTION APPLIED NEITHER TO COMMERCIAL PURCHASES IN THE US NOR TO SECURITY ASSISTANCE ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE. THERE IS MCCH CONCERN HERE THAT THE DRAFTERS OF SPARKMAN'S LETTER WE SO MISINFORMED.

7. SINCE PREPARING THE FOREGOING, FONMIN ESENBEL HAS ASKED ME TO MEET WITH HIM LATER TODAY (MARCH 19). I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL SITUATION WILL BE THE MAJOR TOPIC ON HIS MIND.
MACOMBERO

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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